

BOARD OF PAROLE COMMISSIONERS

**SOLICITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE
ELIMINATION OF PERSONAL PAROLE INTERVIEWS
WITH INMATES**

The Board of Parole Commissioners (Board) is soliciting public comment prior to implementing recommendations made in the Division of Internal Audits Report No. 03-07. The audit report recommends that the Board consider eliminating some or all personal parole interviews with inmates in an effort to save tax dollars.

The audit report and other information on this item may be accessed from the Parole Board's web site at: <http://parole.state.nv.us>.

The following are staff recommendations to the Board with regard to the elimination of personal interviews:

1. **Eliminate face-to-face hearings on failed psych panel hearings.** Certain inmates must pass a psychological review panel prior to being considered for release on parole. The Board must deny any inmate who has failed a psych panel. The board may consider eliminating personal hearings on these inmates and take action in absentia.
2. **Eliminate face-to-face hearings on Mandatory Parole Review (MPR) inmates.** MPR hearings are those hearings in which the board may only consider whether there is a probability that the inmate will be a danger to public safety while on parole. It was originally the practice of the board to conduct MPR hearings in absentia. The Board began conducting face-to-face hearings with MPR inmates because a panel was already traveling to the inmate's location and at that time, it added only a small amount of time to a hearing agenda to consider these inmates.
3. **Eliminate face-to-face hearings on offenders with consecutive sentences.** Inmates who fall into this category are those who can only be considered for parole release to a consecutive sentence (not to the community).

4. **Eliminate face hearings on inmates assigned to minimum custody locations or residential confinement.** Inmates that fall into this category include inmates housed at SSCC, SCC, ISCC, JCC, WSCC, PCC, TCC, WCC, CCC, HCC, NNRC and on the house arrest program.

The elimination of minimum custody inmate hearings would be the easiest practice to implement and would have the greatest impact (outside of eliminating all face-to-face hearings). Minimum custody inmates could be scheduled to be heard in absentia during the first week of each month. The panel could open the hearings to accept victim input (in private if desired), then close the hearings to deliberate in private. If the panel feels it necessary to conduct a face-to-face hearing on any of the minimum custody inmates, a date will be set aside during the third or fourth week of the month to schedule those inmates. Multiple video conference hearings could be scheduled on the same day to accommodate multiple remote locations.

In all of the above scenarios, the Board would have the option to hold a personal interview if desired.

Written input should be returned to the Board no later than June 30, 2003. The Board will meet to discuss the public input and recommendations at a date to be determined in July 2003.

Please submit comments regarding this subject to:

Board of Parole Commissioners
1445 Hot Springs Rd #108B
Carson City, NV 89711

For more information please contact David M. Smith at 775-687-5049.

POSTED: May 27, 2003

This solicitation for comment was mailed to every Nevada Sheriff and Police Chief, every Nevada District Attorney, every Nevada District Judge, the Nevada State Public Defenders, the Washoe County and Clark County Public Defenders, the Nevada Attorney General and to every person on the board's list for notification of public meetings (this list not all inclusive). The solicitation was also posted in the following locations:

CARSON CITY: Parole Board office, 1445 Hot Springs Road, Suite 108-B; Attorney General's office, 100 S. Carson Street; Carson City Court House, 885 E. Musser St.; Carson City Library, 900 N. Roop Street. LAS VEGAS: Parole Board office, 2601 E. Sahara Avenue; Attorney General's office, 555 E. Washington Avenue; Parole & Probation, 215 E. Bonanza Rd.; Clark County Court House, 200 S. Third Street; Clark County Main Library/reference section, 833 Las Vegas Blvd. This agenda is also posted on the Parole Board web site located at <http://parole.state.nv.us/>.